

consumers the right to choose among competitive providers of electricity in order to achieve lower prices and better service. His steadfast work on this complex issue has made valuable progress that can be built upon in years to come.

Finally, as the Coach of the Republican Congressional Baseball Team, DAN SCHAEFER has established a winning record, batting 60% as the Republican team has won 3 out of 5 games under his leadership, including winning for the last two years, in 1997 and 1998. DAN has also been selected as the team's Most Valuable Player twice. It is clear that Congressman SCHAEFER's leadership will be missed both in the halls of Congress as well as on the Congressional baseball diamond.

As he retires from the House, Congressman DAN SCHAEFER has a record of accomplishment to be proud of. He is the undisputed Dean of the Colorado delegation. He will be missed. I wish him well and best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER GEORGES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I was stunned and saddened to learn this morning of the death of Christopher Georges.

For much of the last four years, Chris reported on Congress for the Wall Street Journal. He died yesterday from complications of lupus.

He was not given much time in this world—only 33 years. But he used every minute he was given, and achieved a remarkable amount.

He graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1987 with a degree in government. At Harvard, he was the executive editor of the Harvard Crimson and was named Harvard Journalist of the Year for 1986–87.

He began his journalism career in 1987 as an intern with the Washington Post. He worked on the issues staff of the Dukakis for President campaign in 1987 and 1988. He returned to newspapers, as a clerk for the New York Times. From the Times, Chris moved to CNN's first special investigative unit.

After CNN, he was named editor of Washington Monthly magazine. A story he wrote on investigative journalism for Washington Monthly was named one of the "10 Best of 1992" by the 1993 Forbes Media Guide.

In 1994, he joined the staff of the Wall Street Journal in Washington covering politics, the budget and economic issues. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize last year for a series of stories he wrote examining the effects of the new welfare reform laws.

It was during his time at the Journal that I got to know Chris. He was a brilliant and fair reporter. He understood public policy as well as anyone in this building. He also had a rare ability to see how what we do in this building affects people outside it.

His stories on welfare reform were a case in point. For months, Chris practically lived at housing projects in the Washington area to see how the new laws affected four women as they struggled to make the transition from welfare to work.

Chris loved everything about newspapering—the reporting, the storytelling. His abilities, and his fundamental sense of fairness, earned him the respect of people on both sides of the aisle.

Chris was brilliant, funny, modest, gentle. He was also incredibly brave.

Like many of us, I had no idea how sick Chris was, how savage and debilitating his disease was. He almost never spoke about it. I now know that Chris struggled with his disease for more than half his life, since he was 15 years old.

A good friend of Chris's, Gene Sperling, director of the President's National Economic Council, first met Chris when he was 22. He said the first time they stayed up all night working on a project, Chris confided to Gene about his disease.

Gene asked Chris what it meant to have lupus. Chris was quiet for a moment, then he said, "It means I could die young."

As a teenager, Chris had been a fierce wrestler. He was just as ferocious in his efforts to wrestle his disease into submission. He did not allow it to defeat him.

Perhaps because he knew what it meant to suffer, Chris was an unusually compassionate man. He leaves behind an incredible number of friends. I want to extend my condolences to them.

I also want to extend my prayers and heartfelt sympathy to Chris's parents, Mary and Jerry Georges of New York City; his sisters, Gigi Georges of Washington; Stephanie Georges Comfort and her husband Chris Comfort of Denver, Colorado and their daughter Katherine.

In the last year of his life, Chris Georges got to do the kind of reporting he really wanted to do. It was smart and important, and it illuminated what we do here. Had he lived longer, I'm sure we would have seen more of it.

I will miss reading Chris's stories. More than that, I will miss seeing him and talking to him. He was an extraordinary man.

In closing, President Clinton this morning also talked about Chris's life and his work. I ask unanimous consent that the President's remarks be printed in the RECORD as well. Thank you.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Chris Georges was a reporter's reporter. Whether he was writing about the budget, Medicare or welfare, Chris' journalistic integrity, attention to detail, and focus on the human side of policy earned him the respect of both his fellow reporters and those who work in the Congress and the White House. It was only fitting that his nomination for a Pulitzer Prize was for a story about welfare

and HIV-positive children. Chris's friends and colleagues most remember his decency, integrity, wit, and sense of fairness. He will be deeply missed by his parents, sisters, and many friends.

#### AFRICA: SEEDS OF HOPE ACT OF 1998

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I am pleased to note that yesterday both Houses of Congress passed the "Africa: Seeds of Hope Act of 1998," clearing the measure for signature by the President. This legislation, which I introduced together with my colleague from Ohio, Senator DEWINE, in July, is designed to prevent hunger and malnutrition in Africa while at the same time helping American farmers and developing lasting and mutually beneficial ties between our peoples.

Food security is critical to establishing the basis for long-term peace, democracy and prosperity in Africa. By redirecting existing bilateral aid and investment programs toward small-scale farming and rural development, the "Seeds of Hope Act" will promote sustainable agricultural development and food security in sub-Saharan Africa. Further, this initiative will foster research and extension activities and help to build local markets, providing important opportunities for mutual cooperation between U.S. and African farmers, educators, scientists and entrepreneurs.

The bill, as adopted, is intended to accomplish several important objectives. First, it aims at providing new opportunities for the poorest of the poor, especially women, by expanding access to credit and technology, improving information and farming techniques, and creating more efficient market mechanisms.

Second, it is designed to maximize the efficiency of current aid programs. It directs the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to focus more of its efforts on projects that improve food security and meet the needs of the rural poor, and requires the participation of affected communities in all phases of project planning and development. The initiative strengthens coordination with non-governmental organizations, cooperatives, educational institutions and local marketing associations that have relevant expertise. In this way, it encourages the latest agricultural methods and most successful business practices, while ensuring they are appropriate to local conditions and adapted to specific climates.

Third, this legislation mobilizes new resources for investment in African agriculture and rural development through the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), working with small businesses and other U.S. entities to develop the capacities of small-scale farmers and rural entrepreneurs. Particularly in this budgetary environment, it is essential to expand the public-private partnership in this area.